Utah Domestic Violence Related Deaths 2006

An Ongoing Public Information Report of the Utah Domestic Violence Council



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"The Utah Domestic Violence Council compiles and continually updates information on domestic violence related deaths from public sources statewide. To be listed in this report, case specific information must demonstrate a correlation between domestic violence and the death of the victim as demonstrated by corroborating public information. These troubling statistics document, in summary form, the broad scope and tragic impact of domestic violence in Utah. From public information available, each listed death shows domestic violence¹ between 1) cohabitants,² 2) persons in dating relationships and 3) family members not defined within the cohabitant statute.

DATE OF DEATH	NAME, AGE, SITUATION, RELATIONSHIP	PLACE OF DEATH
February 3, 2006 #1	Art Backus, Age 48, Domestic Violence Related Homicide Jealousy was apparently the motive when Art was shot and killed in his driveway by Warren Dee Fellows. Two Weber County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a domestic dispute outside Art's home in West Haven at about 11:30 a.m. When they arrived they saw Fellows standing in the driveway, holding a rifle and a handgun. Fellows lifted his guns to aim at the deputies and one deputy fired two shots with a rifle, hitting Fellows and incapacitating him, according to a police spokesman. The deputies then found Art lying dead in his driveway. At the end of the crime scene investigation the spokesman was quoted as saying, "It is safe to say the victim was fleeing, running, fighting for his life." According to the testimony given during a preliminary hearing, Fellows, after learning his wife was having an affair, confronted Art. The two argued, fought and Fellows allegedly shot the victim multiple times with a .22-caliber rifle. During the struggle, the victim managed to call an emergency dispatcher. Following the shooting, Fellows allegedly took Art's wallet containing a good deal of money and took a handgun from Art's car. Fellows has been charged with first-degree felony counts of murder and aggravated robbery. He also is charged with second- and third-degree felony counts of aggravated assault for pointing the gun at a deputy and a passerby who stopped to help Art. On June 28, 2006, Fellows appeared in the Second Judicial District Court and entered pleas of guilty to first degree felony Murder and third degree Aggravated Assault. Sentencing is scheduled for August 15, 2006. Sources: Standard Examiner, February 4, April 28 & June 29, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 27, 2006; Deseret Morning News, February, March, 4, March 15 & May 1, 2006.	West Haven, Weber County, Utah
February 9, 2006 #2	Joanne Francis Landau Carlson, Age 48, Cohabitant Homicide Joanne died a day after being violently assaulted by Richard Carlson, her husband of 29 years. Police said Carlson struck his still-sleeping wife in the back of the head with a blunt object then tried to smother her with a pillow. Thinking she was dead, Carlson allegedly dragged his wife to the bathtub and turned on the water to fake her drowning. Carlson's 19 year old son told police he was awakened at 9:30 a.m by what he described as muffled cries for help. He said he found his father standing over his mother in their bedroom. He then went to a neighbor's house and called 911. Police and prosecutors are puzzled as to a motive. Following interviews with Carlson, a police spokesman said, "He got up in the morning and let the dogs out. When he walked back in the bedroom, he had a sudden urge to strike her." According to police, the couple had no known history of domestic violence. A daughter said her parents had argued but she had never witnessed violence between them. The Davis County Attorney's Office has charged Carlson with Murder, a first degree felony, and Obstruction of Justice, a second degree felony. Trial is pending in the Second Judicial District Court. Sources: Deseret Morning News, February 16, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, February 11 & 23, 2006; Standard Examiner, February 11 & 13, 2006.	Layton, Davis County, Utah

March 5, 2006 #3	Joseph Shawn Perkins, Age 23, Domestic Violence Related Suicide Joseph died in a downstairs bedroom of his residence from a self inflicted gunshot. The death was the tragic culmination of an argument and mutually physical confrontation between him and his girlfriend. According to a statement given to law enforcement by the girlfriend, Joseph and she had been out drinking alcohol for some hours. Prior to arriving at Joseph's residence in the early morning hours they had already been arguing. At approximately 5:00 a.m. on March 5 th , Joseph's brother dropped them off at Joseph's residence. According to the girlfriend's statement and statements given by members of Joseph's family, the argument continued after they arrived at the residence. At one point Joseph slapped the girlfriend and she grabbed him by the throat with her hands. Marks on each person were consistent with the statement. Following the physical altercation, according to the girlfriend's statement, Joseph went upstairs, retrieved a rifle and returned to the basement. At that point the girlfriend said she called her brother to come and get her because she and Joseph were fighting. When her brother arrived the girlfriend, according to her statement, pushed Joseph out of the way and went upstairs to leave. Just as she was about to walk out the front door of the residence she heard a loud bang. She left the residence without checking to see what caused the bang. Joseph's mother reported to police that she heard the loud bang, after which she heard the front door close. Joseph's brother went downstairs and discovered Joseph's body, obviously dead, with the rifle lying on it. A report from the state medical examiner determined that the cause of death was a gunshot wound and that the muzzle of the gun was in the victim's mouth when the shot was fired. All evidence gathered by investigating officers was consistent with the girlfriend's statement and statements given by family members. Sources: Standard Examiner, March 8, 2006; Box Elder County Sheriff's O	
March 9, 2006 #4	Linda Elliot, Age 63, Cohabitant Homicide Linda died on her 63 rd birthday after having been shot with a shotgun by her son, 38 year old Curtis Elliot. He then went back into the apartment the two had shared where he killed himself with a gun. Witnesses say they saw Linda running down the stairs, calling for help and saying she'd been shot. "Then the man shot her again and disappeared." According to a Salt Lake County Sheriff's spokesman, Linda had earlier in the day informed her son that she was transferring jobs and was moving. She had told her son he would also have to move because she would not sign a lease for the apartment for him. Detectives weren't sure if that incident sparked the shooting but suspect it may have been a launching point for an argument between the two. Sources: Deseret Morning News, March 10 & 12, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, March 11, 2006; KTVX.com, March 10, 2006.	Holladay, Salt Lake County, Utah
March 9, 2006 #5	Curtis Elliott, Age 38, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.	Holladay, Salt Lake County, Utah

April 1, 2006 #6	Cassandra Bryan, 46, Cohabitant Homicide Cassandra was shot in the head multiple times by her husband, Stephen Walker. Around 8:00 p.m. police were called to the couple's residence by a friend of Walker. Earlier in the evening Walker had called the friend and told him he wanted to commit suicide. A while later he called the friend again and told him not to bother, that he - Walker - had taken care of the problem. The friend, concerned for Walker's safety, went to the couple's residence and found Walker sitting in the living room and Cassandra's body in the kitchen. Walker refused to cooperate with police during their investigation at the crime scene. A 9mm handgun was recovered. No apparent motive for the killing was discovered. The Salt Lake District Attorney's Office has charged Walker with Murder, a first degree felony. Following a preliminary held on August 11, 2006, in the Third Judicial District Court, Walker was bound over to stand trial for Cassandra's Murder. Sources: ABC4.com, April 2, 2006; Deseret Morning News, April 4 & 9, 2006; KUTV.com, April 2, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 3 & 18 and August 12, 2006	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah
April 8, 2006 #7	Antoinette Corum, 59, Cohabitant Homicide Antoinette was allegedly strangled by her boy friend, Lanny Wayman. According to family members, the two had been living together off and on, most recently in the Cedar City area, for several years. Wayman has a lengthy and well documented history of domestic violence. He was convicted of domestic violence charges three times from 1997 to 2002 in Las Vegas courts, including at least one felony count. In 2001, he was charged with felony battery constituting domestic violence against Antoinette. The following year, Wayman pleaded guilty to felony attempted battery constituting domestic violence. He was sentenced to a maximum of 32 months in prison with a minimum parole eligibility of one year. According to Cedar City neighbors of the couple, there had been a loud argument between them on April 7th. Things then got quiet and the next morning Wayman got into his motor home and left. According to a police probable cause affidavit, between 6:30 and 7 p.m. on April 8th, Wayman called his brother who lives in East Carbon and said he had killed his girlfriend, Toni, and that he was going to kill himself. The brother called a third sibling and they met Wayman at the motor home near the junction of US Hwy. 6 and Horse Canyon Road. Wayman had a .22-caliber rifle, which the brothers were able to get away from him. They then persuaded Wayman to go with them to a gas station to buy alcohol, where the brothers called the Emery County Sheriff's Department. Deputies arrested him at the station about 9 p.m. The Emery County Attorney's Office charged Wayman with Murder, a first degree felony, and Desecration of a Human Body, a third degree felony. In June, Wayman entered a plea of guilty to a lesser charge of second degree felony Manslaughter, and to Desecration of a Corpse and Possession of a Firearm by a Restricted Person, both third degree felonies. On June 21, 2006, Wayman was sentenced by the Seventh Judicial District Court to serve a term of up to 20 years in the Utah State Prison.	Horse Canyon area, Emery County, Utah
April 19, 2006 #8	Arthur B. Henderson, 38, Perpetrator Suicide Natalie Henderson was home on the morning of Jan. 27 when she says Art Henderson called and asked which of the couple's five children were with her. She told him three were and, answering further questions, said she was not going to work and that her boyfriend, Craig Trimble, was not at work, either. "Is he there?" she said Henderson asked. "Yes," she replied. "Good," Henderson said, and then he hung up. "I knew we were in trouble," Natalie Henderson told police. "I had fled the house a few times before, but he had always called from his parents' house in Highland. I didn't know he was on his cell phone and so close by."	Lehi, Utah County, Utah

What followed was unlike anything the usually quiet community of Lehi had ever seen. As Natalie and Craig were driving out of their driveway, Henderson pulled in. He then chased them through residential streets as Craig drove and frantically called 911 for help. The chase ended when Henderson, a former Lehi police officer, forced Natalie's car off the road and then began shooting at them. Craig was shot three times, but was able to crawl to safety in a nearby house. One of Henderson's rounds went through the windshield of a nearby car, narrowly missing the driver. Natalie, caught in the car, was unable to leave. Her children were also in the car. Henderson spoke briefly with Natalie, including an inquiry as to whether she was shot. He then turned his gun toward Lehi officers who had arrived. The Lehi officers opened fire. Henderson suffered two gunshot wounds, neither being fatal.

In 2004, however, he fought with a former friend, was charged with assault and was fired from the police department. During that same period, Natalie left him and eventually formed a close relationship with Craig. In 2005 Henderson was charged with Assault and Terroristic Threat, based upon an altercation with Craig. Also in that year, Natalie filed for divorce and filed for a protective order against Henderson. Henderson was convicted of the assault on Craig. Despite all that, in December of 2005, he again confronted Craig and was again charged with assault. Less than two months later, the chase through Lehi streets happened.

The Utah County Attorney's Office charged Henderson with five first degree felony counts of Attempted Aggravated Murder. He was also charged with Aggravated Assault, Criminal Mischief and three counts of Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm, all third-degree felonies.

Henderson remained in jail, unable to make the \$250,000 bail set by the court. He was held in solitary confinement in the maximum security section of the Salt Lake County Jail. On March 31, 2006, he appeared in the Fourth Judicial District Court and waived a preliminary hearing. On April 20, 2006, Henderson was found dead in his cell, he having hanged himself with a bed sheet.

Sources: Deseret Morning News, January 2, 28 & 31, February 3 & 6, April 1, 12 & 21, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, January 28, February 6, 7 & 22, April 1, 12 & 20, 2006; KUTV.com, April 20, 2006.

April 16, 2006 #9

Jose Raul Cruz, 25, Domestic Violence Related Death

Jose was pronounced dead at Dixie Regional Medical Center after falling from a moving vehicle. According to a police press release, Jose and Gladys Gonzalez, his girlfriend, were reportedly involved in a verbal domestic dispute prior to the accident. Gonzalez reportedly attempted to leave, getting into a Ford pickup that had running boards along the sides of the vehicle. Jose reportedly jumped into the bed of the truck and then climbed down onto the running board as Gonzalez drove out of the parking lot. According to newspaper accounts, Gonzalez stopped a few blocks down the road and asked Cruz to get off the truck. After Cruz reportedly refused, Gonzalez allegedly again began to move her pickup. At that point, Jose reportedly fell off the truck and struck his head on the pavement. Gonzalez was taken into custody and booked into Washington County Correctional Facility on a charge of leaving the scene of an injury accident. Following a review of the evidence in the case, the Washington County Attorney's Office determined that no charges would be filed against Gonzalez. That office determined there was no evidence showing she intended to throw Jose from the pickup or in any other way injure him. In fact, all evidence suggested she was traveling at a slow rate of speed (5-6 MPH) while Jose was holding onto the truck. She even stopped at one point to try to convince him to get off. Sources: The Spectrum, April 17 & 18, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 18, 2006; Washington County Attorney's Office.

St. George, Washington County, Utah

April 27, 2006 #10	Moises Santuario, Age 43, Domestic Violence Related Suicide A 45-minute SWAT stand off ended after West Jordan and Sandy police officers entered a house and found Moises, with whom they had been attempting to make contact, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The incident apparently started with a domestic dispute between Moises and his wife around 9a.m. The wife got out of the house and called police, telling them that her husband had a gun and was threatening to commit suicide. The SWAT team came to the home and surrounded it around 10:30a.m. They were unable to make contact with Moises. Around 11a.m., they forced their way into the home and found him dead in a bedroom. Police said he used a handgun to kill himself. Sources: KSL.com, April 27, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, April 27, 2006; West Jordan City Police Department.	West Jordan, Salt Lake County, Utah
May 7, 2006 #11	John Matthew Ruiz, Age 44, Cohabitant Homicide John was allegedly shot and killed by his wife, Vickie Marie Ruiz, age 43, very early on this Sunday morning. At 3:16 a.m., Brigham City dispatch received a 911 call from Vickie Ruiz, saying that someone had been shot and requesting an ambulance. When paramedics arrived at the couple's home, they found 44-year-old John bleeding from his chest inside a motor home next to the couple's home. Doctors later pronounced him dead at the hospital. Police said the shooting of John occurred in the motor home, where a party had been going on. According to a police probable cause affidavit, Ruiz entered the motor home and found her husband with another man and woman and having sex with the woman. She returned to their house, got a handgun, went back to the motor home and shot her husband once in the chest. She then called 911 and "indicated that though she had shot her husband, she had not shot the other woman, though she should have done so," the affidavit said. Family members told police the couple was having problems. Police reported having been called to the residence once, two years ago. The Box Elder Attorney's Office has charged Ruiz with Murder, a first degree felony. Trial is pending in the First Judicial District Court. Sources: Standard Examiner, May 8 & 9, 2006; ABC4.com, May 7, 2006; Deseret Morning News, May 8 & 9, 2006; KSL.com, May 7 & 8, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, May 8 & 9, 2006.	Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah
June 24, 2006 #12	Ryan Todd Oman, Age 21, Domestic Violence Related Suicide Oman shot and killed himself with a handgun, ending a nearly two hour standoff with Ogden City police. At about 2:15 p.m., police received a call informing them that Oman had picked up his former girlfriend, Autumn Amber Lee, and had left with her. The person who made the report was unsure whether Autumn had left willingly. Because the District Court, at Autumn's request, had recently issued an ex parte protective order against Oman, and because Oman was also a suspect in an unrelated shooting that had taken place in Ogden on June 13, 2006, police immediately responded. Police soon spotted the vehicle in which Autumn and Oman were riding, with Autumn driving. Because of Oman's record and a fear of potential violence, police yelled commands to the occupants of the car, telling both to get out. Autumn refused to get out, claiming she was not a hostage but informing police that Oman had a gun and that he was threatening suicide. She told police she was afraid he would kill himself if she got out of the car. A police SWAT team was called to the scene and a police negotiator made cell phone contact with Oman. According to a police spokesman, he appeared to be on the verge of surrendering on several occasions. Then, without warning, while he was still on the phone with the negotiator, Oman suddenly put the gun to his head and pulled the trigger. Autumn, against whom Oman was pressed, was injured as a result of the shooting and was taken to a local hospital. Oman had a lengthy history of illegal and violent behavior. Only a few days before his death he had been placed on the state's "Most Wanted" list. He had a long history of dealings with police, the spokesman said. In addition to being wanted in connection with the June 14 th Ogden shooting – in which a 25 year old man was shot in the jaw – he was also wanted on a minimum of three warrants: one for an unspecified felony, one for burglary and aggravated assault, and one for parole	Ogden, Weber County, Utah

	violation. He was legally prohibited from carrying a firearm. Oman was also, according to police, known to be involved in the illegal drug community. Sources: Deseret Morning News, June 25, 2006; KSL.com, June 24, 2006; KUTV.com, June 24, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, June 25, 2006; Standard Examiner, June 25, 2006.	
July 2, 2006 #13	Larry Van Camp, Age 57, Cohabitant Homicide A day long argument over air conditioning ended in the death of two people, leaving their bodies to be discovered by their children. Investigators with the Tooele County Sheriff's Office say they are at a loss for words at how a seemingly inconsequential argument escalated into a murder-suicide, leaving three children traumatized and without parents. Larry Van Camp and Michelle Carter had lived together for about three years. Also residing in the home were Carter's 16-year-old son and Larry's 14-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter. According to a spokesman for the Tooele County Sheriff's Office, the couple was arguing over a part needed to fix the air conditioner on the large truck Larry drove for a living. Each person apparently thought the other was the last to have the part. "They weren't yelling or screaming," the spokesman said. "They were just nagging at each other most of the day." Between 7:45 and 8:00 p.m., while the two were still working on the truck, Carter, using a .357 caliber handgun, shot Larry multiple times in the back of the neck. She then turned the gun on herself. The three children were watching movies in a relative's RV parked some 20 yards from the scene of the shooting. The 14 year old boy was just leaving the RV when the shots were fired. He was first on the scene and found the bodies. The Sheriff's spokesman said, "(The kids) are not doing too well. They're taking it pretty rough." Detectives do not believe that either alcohol or drugs was involved. So far as local law enforcement is aware, there was no history of domestic violence between the couple. Sources: Tooele Transcript Bulletin on-line, July 3, 2006; Deseret Morning News, July 3 & 4, 2006; KSL.com, July 3, 2006; KUTV.com, July 4, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, July 4, 2006.	Stockton, Tooele County, Utah
July 2, 2006 #14	Michelle Carter, Age 37, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.	Stockton, Tooele County, Utah
July 29, 2006 #15	Martin James Sessions, Age 49, Perpetrator Homicide Martin was allegedly shot and killed by his wife, Carol Elizabeth Sessions. At 11:20 a.m., Ms. Sessions placed a call to the Millard County Sheriff's dispatch and said she has shot her husband. When deputies arrived at the home, Sessions directed them to the back yard where they found Martin's dead body. He had been shot several time with a handgun. The Millard County Sheriff's investigation determined that the killing had taken place inside a bedroom of the residence and that Sessions had then moved the body to the back yard. Prior to calling dispatch, Sessions called a close male friend and told him she had killed her husband. The friend told Sessions to call law enforcement immediately, and that if she didn't he would. Shortly after receiving the call, the friend called dispatch and reported the shooting. Neither the investigation nor Sessions' statement indicated that any fight or altercation had taken place between Martin and Sessions immediately prior to the shooting. According to a police spokesman, Sessions had previously complained to authorities that her husband had abused her. A search of state court records, however, shows no domestic violence related cases involving the couple. The Millard County Attorney's Office has charged Sessions with Murder, a first degree felony, Obstruction of Justice, a second degree felony and Desecration of a Human Corpse, a third degree felony. Further proceedings are pending in the Fourth Judicial District Court. Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, July 31 and August 8, 2006; Deseret Morning News, July 31 and August 14, 2006; Millard County Chronicle Progress, August 8, 2006.	Delta, Millard County, Utah

August 4, 2006 #16

Laura Susan (Umphrey) Hauck, Age 50, Perpetrator Homicide

By Monday, August 7th, family members hadn't heard from Laura or her 18 year old son Jeremy Hauck (Hauck) for days. They'd called and knocked on their door with no response. Finally, they called police. Officers arrived at the condo shared by the two and got no answer at the door. Noticing a window open on the upper level, officers used a ladder to get inside. There, according to a police spokesman, they found blood on a mattress inside of the house. "Something had been drug — there was blood — to one of those small chest freezers." Inside the freezer, forced into a fetal position, they discovered a body. It was frozen solid. There was no sign of Hauck nor of Laura's automobile. Neither had been seen since Friday. After several days of thawing, the Medical Examiner was able to remove the body from the freezer and identify it as Laura's. She had been shot twice in the head and her throat had been slit. On August 10th, Hauck was discovered in a Missoula, Montana motel and was arrested by Missoula police without incident. He had several firearms in his hotel room when arrested. Neither the police investigation nor family members have determined a possible motive for the killing. Family members say Laura was devoted to Hauck, that he was her entire life. They said Hauck was a 4.0 student and a high achiever in other areas. They also said of Hauck, however, that he lacks social skills and has few friends. Family members said he doesn't interact well with people. They described him as a very quiet person, and they basically said he could not function on his own out in the real world. He would need someone to help him. The Davis County Attorney's Office has charged Hauck with Murder, a first degree felony, and Theft of his mother's automobile, a second degree felony. He waived extradition from Montana. Further proceedings are pending in the Second Judicial District Court.

Bountiful, Davis County, Utah

Sources: KSL.com, August 7 & 8, 2006; Salt Lake Tribune, August 8, 9, 10 & 11 & 15, 2006; Deseret Morning News, August 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 & 16, 2006.

COHABITANT HOMICIDES:

PERPETRATOR SUICIDES:

DATING RELATIONSHIP HOMICIDES:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDES:

COHABITANT SUICIDES:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATH:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATH - CAUSE UNKNOWN:

TOTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS IN UTAH DURING 2006:

- 1. Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 2.1 Domestic Violence Means
 - · Any criminal offense involving
 - -violence
 - -physical harm
 - -threat of violence or physical harm

Any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving

-violence or physical harm

When committed by one **cohabitant** against another

Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 1 Domestic Violence also means commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses by one cohabitant against another

aggravated assault

assault

criminal homicide

harassment

telephone harassment

kidnapping, child kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping

mayhem (mutilation of a body part)

sexual offenses

-unlawful sexual intercourse

-rape

object rape

sodomy-forcible sodomy

forcible sexual abuse

aggravated sexual assault

sexual exploitation of a minor

stalking

unlawful detention

violation of a protective order

offenses against property (theft is not a domestic violence offense)

possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault

discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any person, building or vehicle

disorderly conduct if conviction result of plea negotiation from an original DV offense child witnessing DV child abuse

any other criminal offense involving violence or physical harm

- 2. Under Utah Title 30, Chapter 6, Section 1: the Cohabitant Abuse Act, a cohabitant is defined as:
 - (2) "Cohabitant" means an emancipated person pursuant to Section 15-2-1 or a person who is 16 years of age or older who:
 - (a) is or was a spouse of the other party;
 - (b) is or was living as if a spouse of the other party;
 - (c) is related by blood or marriage to the other party;
 - (d) has one or more children in common with the other party;
 - (e) is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child; or
 - (f) resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party.
 - (3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), "cohabitant" does not include:
 - (a) The relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor; or
 - (b) The relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under 18 years of age.